



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 106 October 2013

Villagers back plans to buy King's Arms

by Anders Larsson

MORE than 100 villagers unanimously backed plans for a community buyout of The King's Arms in Stockland.

The backing was given during a packed meeting in August.

As previously reported, the pub is currently closed but villagers hope to buy the building and run a co-operative pub.

As part of that process, Stockland Community Pub Group (SCPG) was formed when the parish council met in August to take the project forward.

The building is reported to be on the market for £800,000 but the building's owner, Horatio Properties Guernsey Ltd, cannot offer it to any other buyer than the community group until a moratorium period ends on February 9th next year.

This is because Stockland Parish Council was successful in applying for Asset of Community Value for the building through new legislation.

SCPG member Martin Gundry said after the August meeting: "I'm delighted at the unanimous mandate from the meeting to proceed with plans for a community buy-out."

His fellow SCPG member Cathy Gardner said the group hopes to "work positively" with the building's owner, and stressed it should not be seen as a fight between the two.

A community benefit society will be formed to prepare an offer and to take on ownership of the pub if the bid is successful.

The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £20,000 per person.

Each shareholder will have one vote, no matter how many shares they buy.

It is hoped that many locals will come forward

with pledges as a guide to how much can be raised.

Charity funding may be sought to fill any gap and donations are also welcome. Shared ownership will be open to all, so anyone who is interested in The King's Arms can

help to keep the pub alive.

More information can be found online at www.stockland.org.uk/scpg

An SCPG spokesperson added: "According to 'The Pub is the Hub', who sent their representa-

tive to the meeting, there are now 40 pubs communally owned across the country - with a similar number in the pipeline.

"This is an exciting way to keep important country pubs alive into another century."



IT may have been over in a little more than a flash, but the Tour of Britain was a real crowd puller in Honiton.

The High Street was packed with people keen to catch a glimpse of Tour de France winner Sir Bradley Wiggins as riders passed through the town on Friday, September 20th.

After the cyclists left Honiton they made their way through the Blackdown Hills passing Awliscombe before heading towards Willand.



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News from the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Hemyock grandfather takes celebrations to new heights

A HEMYOCK grandfather has taken his birthday celebrations to new heights after jumping out of a plane upon turning 75.

Brian Standing usually spends his freetime doing crosswords or enjoying peaceful walks in the countryside. But as his 75th birthday approached Brian thought it was time to do something exciting to mark the occasion.

He also decided to take the opportunity to raise money for charity, but rather than run a marathon as he has done in the past, he decided to throw himself out of an aeroplane.

Brian's 'birthday skydive' has raised money for multiple local charities, including Hemyock pre-school, scout group and churches as well as national charities including Dementia UK and SPARKS.

Brian said: "I raised £2,000 between the eight charities so I'm really pleased about that. It took a lot of effort and support from those around me so I'm thankful to everyone involved."

Brian's skydive took place at Dunkeswell Airfield with one of the largest jump centres in the country, Skydive UK. Louise Banks, Charity Co-ordinator for the centre, said: "All of our customers are special and jump for various reasons, but the lengths Brian went to with his fundraising is truly admirable."

"I've worked closely with Brian from the start and the passion he had for these charities was clear to see and truly paid off."

Brian said: "The skydive was full of fabulous feelings; the views were totally breathtaking, es-



BRIAN falls 15,000ft during birthday skydive



BRIAN Standing with his skydive instructor Andy

pecially as I'm from the local area so I had fun spotting familiar landmarks!

"Everything at Skydive UK was so professionally run that I was reassured and at ease from start to finish. The skydivers even sang happy birthday during the ride

to altitude which added a personal touch to a special day I will never forget."

Brian added: "My age didn't stop me enjoying every second of my skydive. I'm even planning to do it again for my 80th birthday – much to my relatives' amusement!"

It's such a wonderful thing to experience that I wish I'd done it sooner."

If you would like to take part in a skydive for charity or for a special occasion, please contact Louise Banks at Skydive UK on (01392) 860048 or email louise@skydive99.com.



HEMYOCK grandfather Brian Standing, 75, pictured before his skydive

NEWS *briefs*

Division winners

HEMYOCK Tennis Club are celebrating success after winning a top division title.

The Hemyock Tennis Club A team won Division two of the West Somerset League this season.

They won nine matches out of 10 gaining 66 points, finishing 17 points clear of the runner's up, Taunton B.

They will move up to division one next year and hope their success continues.

Harvest celebration

FOLLOWING a service at St Andrew's Church in Clayhidon, there will be harvest supper and entertainment at the village hall.

There is always a delicious, wholesome meal and plenty of juice and cider to drink and the evening is rounded off by a jovial "home-grown" cabaret performance from some of the parish's treasured "thespians".

The harvest celebrations will take place on October 4th.

Tickets for the supper are £10, which can be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Contact Margaret Blackmore 01823 680 256 for more information.

Produce auction

UPOTTERY parishoners will be raising money for two charities at their harvest festival celebrations.

The Harvest service will take place at 11am on Sunday, October 6th at the church followed by Lunch in the Manor Room with an auction of produce in aid of Water Aid and Send A Cow charities.

Tickets are £6 for adults and children over 11 years of age.



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Family pay tribute to motorcyclist

THE family of a motorcyclist, who died in a collision near Clayhidon, has paid tribute to him.

Nik A'Court-Willis, aged 56, from Ilminster, Somerset, died when he was involved in a collision in the Wellington area, near Clayhidon, on Thursday, August 29th.

Paying tribute to Nik, his family said: "A keen biker for many years Nik A'Court-Willis has successfully owned and ran his hairdressing salon 'Nichares' in the centre of Taunton, along with his wife and wonderful caring staff.

"He was a loving son, brother and husband and devoted father to his two children. His death has shocked and devastated his family and friends and he will be missed terribly by all who knew him.

"The family have asked to respect their privacy in such a difficult time."

Police are appealing for people who may have witnessed the collision, which happened at Quarts Moor in Wrangway at about 7.10pm.

Two cars were travelling along the road in the direction of Hemyock when the car in front slowed to turn right into a roadside parking area. Meanwhile, Mr A'Court-Willis, who was following both cars on his motorcycle, passed them before colliding with the car waiting to turn. He was thrown from his bike.

Mr A'Court-Willis was later declared dead at the scene.

Anyone able to help is asked to contact the collision investigation unit by dialling 101.



■ NIK A'Court-Willis from Ilminster who died in a motorbike accident near Clayhidon

Lost WWI medal returns to village

A LOST WWI Victory medal issued to a Membury born soldier, has been found and will be returned to the Village.

Robbi Robson, Chairman of Membury History Society, recently returned home from a trip to Northern France where she visited the graves of all Membury's First World War soldiers killed in action. The same evening she received a telephone call from Tom Hirons, from Honiton, saying that he had bought the medal of soldier Robert Newbery, who died in action in 1916.

Robert's medal will be returned to Membury and the History Society plan to display it in a

community building.

Robert was born in Membury, near Axminster, in 1896 and can be found on the 1901 census, aged five, living with his parents, brother, sister and grandmother in Prospect Cottage.

In 1911, aged 15, he had left home and was working as a cowman at Ford Farm, Furley, living with the Perham family.

He enlisted at Axminster into the Duke of Cambridge's Own (the Middlesex Regiment) the 11th Battalion and fought on the Western Front for nine months.

The 11th Battalion was one of the units set up in August 1914 as Kitchener's New Army -

made up of volunteers.

They went to France between May 29th and June 1st 1915, landing at Boulogne. They were in action at the Battle of Loos in September 1915. After a period of rest, they moved into reserve and then in the front line at Givenchy, and then a period of training. They moved back to the front line at Loos on February, 12th 1916.

Robert was killed on March 3rd 1916 and he has no known grave. He is remembered on the Loos Memorial to the Missing, together with two other Membury boys, Noal Aplin and William Parker, and another 20,605 men.



■ AMERICAN air crew at Dunkeswell during WWII

War stories DVD now on sale

A NEW film, which paints a moving and fascinating picture of one Devon community during the Second World War, has gone on sale.

Dunkeswell War Stories brings to life an extraordinary period when Dunkeswell, near Honiton, was the site of the only US naval airbase on British soil.

The film is full of the memories of both local people and US airmen, thrown together by war.

Recent interviews are interwoven with archive photographs, film and music to create a touching, surprising, funny and sad account of a time which is disappearing from our collective memory.

The hour-long movie was produced by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and Dream Machine Media as part of the Dunkeswell War Stories project, which also created a free online resource for schools and the public.

It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and local sources.

To order A copy, send your address and a cheque for £6 made payable to Devon County Council to: Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, St Ivel House, Hemyock, Cullompton, EX15 3SE.

To find out more about the Dunkeswell War Stories project, visit the website - www.dunkeswellwarstories.co.uk

To advertise contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 35750. Send your news stories to lisa@pemedial.co.uk



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Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields



▼ ALWAYS use a tree guard when planting young trees

THE Woodland Trust have a campaign running to stop the high speed railway plans destroying 33 woodlands in its path.

While there are arguments for and against, I have to say I am against, probably because, like the Olympics, it will be of no benefit to this area and will destroy massive amounts of beautiful countryside.

Log on to woodlandtrust.org.hs2 to sign up to the petition.

I always encourage woodland owners to leave fallen and dead trees in the wood its called "life after death". apparently there are 2,000 species that need decaying wood for their life cycle, I can believe that. Also the decaying wood has no value as fire wood, as all the calorific value has gone, so it might as well stay were it as value to wildlife.

If its small bits of dead wood I advise to stack beside a growing tree, this not only acts as fertilizer but also keeps it out of the way of forestry operations.

The Woodland Association are putting on another woodland management course on October 22nd. There are a few places left. We have had tremendous feedback from them and this will be the last before the spring, visit our website www.woodbiz.co.uk/events for more information.

Finally, there is absolutely no use in planting a tree without a 1.2m guard or a deer fence if you can afford it.

I see so many wasted planting were deer have nipped the leader from the tree. It is a false economy as all you end up with a load of bushes. The first five years of a tree is the most important if it is injured in that period it will never recover.

The treatment of weeds around the tree is also most important in those five years, whether by spray or mats, its vital, as is regular inspections.

I try to see every young tree at least once a month through the growing season looking for disease and damage, that's where the saying "nip in the bud" comes from!



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Hemyock Women's Institute

AFTER Boules and Fish and Chips at Long Mead in August, it was back to the Parish Hall for the September meeting of Hemyock WI.

The Meeting was chaired by the vice president Brenda Calcraft.

Members were reminded about the Group Meeting at Halberton on October 24th and the Autumn Council Meeting on October 17th at Plymouth.

Another date for diaries was the "Sausage and Mash" lunch in the Parish Hall on November 9th.

Five Members had bought tickets for the Croquet Day at Budleigh Salterton.

Brenda welcomed David Pugsley who was making a return visit to the Group. This time he came to talk about the trial of Jane Austen's aunt, Mrs Lee-Perrott who was visiting Bath. She went into a haberdashery and bought a piece of black lace at the cost of one shilling and nine pence for which she handed a £5 note to the assistant. However, it transpired that a



piece of white lace was found in the paper bag as well. This was on August 9th in 1799.

David said that the law was quite brutal during the 19th century. Hanging was the punishment for stealing anything over the value of a shilling.

However, after spending time in Ilchester jail, the lady was brought to the Assizes at Taunton on March 29th and was found not guilty as she had brought a Lord, three MPs and a vicar as character witnesses. As for the Haberdasher, his shop closed shortly afterwards.

David judged the competition for a "Piece of lace". Carolyn came first followed by Cindy and Wendy. Sue brought the winning flower and after refreshments, members enjoyed two quizzes.

Brenda reminded members that the next meeting on October 1st, the speaker will be a lady who had gone down the River Amazon. The competition will be for an interesting water jug plus the usual lovely flower from the garden.

Samford Arundel Women's Institute

ENGLISH gardens in summer; mystical Eastern markets; memories of childhood; all these and more were summoned up for members of Sampford Arundel WI at their September meeting by Kate Fortlage.

She brought examples of pot-pourri, advised members how to make it, and then gave several ingenious ways of using it, including scented greeting cards, travel pillows, and linen fresheners – they should be placed under every twelfth sheet, apparently! Members then had a lovely time mixing their own with the samples. Kath donates her speaker's fee for an Indian village to dig a well; a charming thought, from English lavender to life-saving water.

The rest of the evening was taken up with exchange of news after the summer break. The fete and flower show had been great success, thanks to everyone; an August walk to the willow tree had been followed – of course – by a pub supper. The cream tea, and the tea at the excellent "Calendar Girls" production had added a few inches. A member had entered a competition for making a Teddy Bear – she'd made a St George – and the plans for helping those willow sheep are in hand.

There's lots going on, as usual, including painting day, "craft and laugh" pop-in session, trips to Portsmouth and Malvern Flower Show, scrabble and skittles to keep the brain and muscles going, and lunch club. Moving into the wider WI world there's a group



meeting (photo of wildlife, please) and county meeting in Yeovil, moving right on to Christmas with the Carol Festival in Wells, and Christmas meeting. Next month, Market Stall (stock up on Christmas presents?)

The county plan for "Fun with a Fiver" (to raise funds for Wilton Lodge, the regency house which is the HQ for Somerset WI) had brought forth all sorts of ideas – Sampford's was to raffle donated whiskey, champagne and wine, and – to sober up? – a coffee morning.

Blackdown Hills Transition Group

Keeping warm doesn't have to cost the earth

With the ever-increasing cost of energy, we need to look for alternative ways to heat our homes and move away from big energy suppliers also reducing our energy bills and basically become more self-sufficient.

Living in the Blackdown Hills we are in the ideal location to do exactly this. With all of the fantastic woodland and hedgerows, which surround us, there is an abundance of material that can be used. The trouble is, knowing how to go about using this wood to heat our homes in a sustainable way without stripping the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Throughout the area, woodlands and hedgerows have been maintained and managed by various landowners. When trees are felled and the hedgerows laid or cut back, the large wood that comes out of the process is cut up into logs for burning in the home.

However, the smaller wood, less than three inches diameter generally tends to get discarded or chipped and used as mulch.

Much of the wood that comes out of the hedgerows is hardwood such as Ash, Oak, Hazel, Blackthorn and Beech. Eco Green Energy is a small family run business, based right in the centre of the Blackdown Hills,

This month's article is from Mike Thorne from Clayhidon.

Mike runs a small business specialising in wood-burning installations and is keen to share his experience of using a new piece of wood processing equipment.

that specialises in the supply and installation of log burning boilers.

As a spin off from this Eco Green Energy has a piece of equipment called a "Wood Crusher", we call it a Wood Chopper, which they can hire out. This wood crusher actually chops any wood, which has a diameter of up to 80mm (three inches), into small chunks with a length of 50mm – 100mm.

As the machine chops the wood the chopped wood falls into net bags, which are hung on the back of the machine. Once the bag is full it is manually removed, then stacked and stored in a dry place.

After a short period of drying out, about one month, it is then ready for burning in any fire including open fires, wood burning stoves, range cookers, log burning boilers.

THE annual Transition Group "Apple Days" are being held during October in the Blackdown Hills. The weather has been kinder to us this year and we will hopefully have a reasonable crop of apples. So if you wish to bring a bucket or two of apples to these venues and a few bottles to pour the apple juice into or just fancy popping along to meet fellow Transition Group members and chat about what our aims are, details are as follows:

● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH - Gordon and Geraldine Field are your hosts at Otterhead Lodge, Culmhead, TA3 7EE. Event runs from 2pm-5pm. Parking is in the Otterhead Lakes car park. Contact telephone number is 01823 601162.

● SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH - The community at Stentwood Farm, Dunksell, EX14 4RW. 10am-5pm both days. Contact telephone number is 01823 681155.

● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH - Cotleigh Tythe Barn at Wambrook. 12noon-4pm, contact Libby Lister on 01460 64605.



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Lots of laughs at Ferne's annual dog show

WAGGIEST, scruffiest and prettiest pooches lined up to be judged at the annual fun companion dog show held at the Ferne Animal Sanctuary at Wambrook, near Chard.

The popular show attracts families from across the region, many who have re-homed animals from the sanctuary themselves. The beautiful weather meant there was another good turnout for the event, where prizes were awarded for everything from the prettiest eyes to the best veteran.

by Marion Draper

The emphasis on the day is always fun and nobody took the novelty judging too seriously; one crafty owner even wore a curly wig to look most like her pet.

Handlers could also pay to take their dog around the agility course, ably demonstrated by sanctuary mascot Freddie Ferne, which created a lot of laughs all round as some couldn't keep up with their enthusiastic canines.

For the more serious handlers there were obedience classes judged by Penny Hoare of Dog Help, a behaviourist and dog trainer, who tested the dog's abilities to sit on command for the beginners or walking to heel

and recalls for the more experienced entrants.

Junior handler cup winner was 10-year-old Travis Druce with his best friend Missy.

Sue and Brent Taylor, from Axminster, took along Bill, the smooth border collie, and Poppy, the cattle dog collie cross, who won prettiest bitch.

Suzie Beament, senior fundraising and marketing officer at Ferne said: "We want to thank our kind sponsors for their kind donations, and our judges Penny Hoare of Dog Help and Jessie King, with their stewards Chris Baker and Jennie Sweet respectively, and our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make the day a success.

"Many thanks must also go to all of the visitors who came and took part with their dogs. It was wonderful to see so many dogs together enjoying the day.

"We are delighted to have raised more than £1,800 which will go towards providing refuge for the unwanted animals that now reside with us."



■ SECOND waggiest tail winner Jess Nunn from Chard with Dylan



■ SUE and Bill Taylor with their rescue dogs Bill and Poppy



■ WILSON the basset spaniel cross with Kelly Dixon from Lyme Regis



■ TEN-year-old Amy Hart with Poppy

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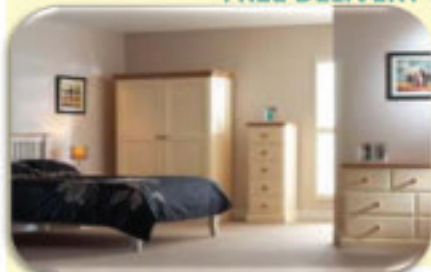


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Sun shines through the rain at Chardstock Street Fayre



■ **RELAXING:** A giant deckchair proved very popular



■ **PARADE:** Majorettes paraded through the village as part of the opening procession

CHARDSTOCK Street Fayre goers weren't deterred by the rain as approximately 2,000 people attended, a figure on par with previous years.

Fayre secretary Sarah Williamson estimated that takings were in the region of £6,300, slightly up on last year.

The final figure is yet to be announced, but she said: "Takings are slightly up and expenses are slightly lower this year, which is really good - and we didn't get too rained on."

Fayre president Jonathan Milford opened the fayre at 11am.

The main beneficiaries from this year's fayre are The Friends of St Andrew's Primary School and The Friends of St Andrews Church.



■ **OPENING CUT:** Fayre president Jonathan Milford opened the event



■ **TWIRLING:** Majorettes performed as part of the opening procession



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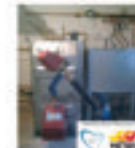
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Autumn events for all in the Blackdown Hills



■ **THE new programme is packed with events like mushroom forays**

THE new edition of the popular Blackdown Hills Countryside Events programme is now available, packed with activities, walks and workshops.

There are opportunities to discover the Blackdown Hills' rich heritage with history walks, a Roman discovery day and a showing of the Dunkeswell War Stories film.

There are also practical courses such as hedge laying and woodland management, and lots of fun activities like mushroom hunts and stargazing.

Seasonal events include natural Christmas crafts, Christmas carols at Wellington Monument, Valentine's Day spoon carving and a Mother's Day woodland tea.

The Countryside Events programme is published by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership.

It is available as a booklet from local Tourist Information Centres and libraries, as well as some shops and pubs. Alternatively call the AONB office on 01823 680681 for your copy.

'Glorious' concert from Blackdowns Early Music Project

Review by Bill Kenny

DEVON'S Blackdowns Early Music Projects (BEMP), led by the apparently indomitable Catherine and Geoffrey Bass, has turned out some remarkable performances over a ten year history and continues to attract experienced singers from the UK and Europe to work with specialist music directors and instrumentalists in programmes of infrequently heard Renaissance and Baroque music.

This concert was their largest production to date and offered the first UK performances of two major choral works from 17th century Salzburg and Vienna.

A cathedral setting was chosen in order to imitate the sonorities of the original Austrian acoustic as accurately as possible. Both are works little known even among the specialised Early Music community and the smaller of them, JJ Fux's *Missa Sanctissimus Trinitatis* was presented in a new edition prepared by BEMP's Musical Director Jan Joost van Elburg specially for its first outing in Amsterdam in 2012. Georg Muffat's larger *Missa In Labore Requies* - apparently the composer's only surviving choral work - was hardly any more familiar, although a recording of it - coupled with HI Biber's *Litanie Sancto Josepho* - was in the German *Harmonia Mundi* catalogue for a while (HMC 901667) before being withdrawn.

To set these large scale choral pieces in a reasonable historical and geographical framework, the programme's first half presented items performed by either the BEMP Choir and the Continuo group or by the visiting instrumental groups, followed by the Fux Mass brought to life by the choir, the visiting soloists and the Monteverdi String Band, the Sackbuts and continuo. In the second half, the Muffat Mass's sections were presented in order but were also separated by items from the Altenburg Ensemble and by Steven Devine on organ. The final sections of the Mass - the *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei* - were gloriously performed by the complete ensemble.



■ **THE Blackdowns Early Music Project Choir perform at Exeter Cathedral**

'Glorious' is in fact, probably exactly the right word to sum up this concert. The Altenburg Ensemble's opening 'Arie Balletto a Cavallo' by G.E. Schmelzer was a real 'horse ballet' performed in Vienna in 1667 for the marriage of Emperor Leopold I to Margareta of Spain according to Katie Hodges, one of the group's clarino players in her nicely descriptive programme note. The ballet's dances set the tone for all that was to follow and demonstrated the group's extraordinary virtuosity. The ensemble's instruments are all wholly 'natural' without valves or finger holes and depend completely on the player's embouchure and breath control for pitch and expressiveness. They can however produce a surprising range of sounds including some that are particularly gentle and beguilingly soothing when the instruments are played *con sordino*.

After contributions from the Choir and other featured artists - the Monteverdi String Band and the English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble - came the Fux Mass. Though probably a fairly unfamiliar name to most of us, Fux is reasonable well-known in one important regard: he wrote and compiled the famous *Gradus ad Parnassum*, a treatise

on composition used subsequently by both Haydn and Beethoven. The Mass itself really should be better known. Compared with what would follow after the interval it is a relatively small piece, but it is sensitively scored for double choir which reveals a deep respect for contrapuntal Renaissance influences from Palestrina whilst also looking forward to a contrasting baroque style of composition in the solo writing.

After the interval we heard Georg Muffat's startling and evocative *Missa In Labore Requies* Mass of truly impressive proportions. It requires five separate choirs, three of them instrumental and the other two vocal. The vocal choirs are each augmented by four of the eight vocal soloists and a chamber organ making 32 parts in all. Further colour and tonal grandeur are added by the continuo theorbo and violone. It is a huge work, probably only comparable with H. I. Biber's 53 part Salzburg Mass and according to Geoffrey Bass's informative programme notes, some recent musicologists have characterised Muffat as the 'missing link' between Praetorius and JS Bach. It is fairly easy to see why. The work is full of interest - much more than could be revealed in the now withdrawn recording - and succeeds in providing what I suspect must be gratifying music for all participants, who without exception responded to JanJoost van Elburg's carefully judged musical direction with what seemed to be genuinely wholehearted and enthusiastic commitment.

The last accolade though, really must go to Catherine and Geoffrey Bass who somehow managed to assemble a truly stellar cast of singers and instrumentalists. It's not every day that Exeter can boast having performers who work regularly with the Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, Stile Antico, The Cardinal's Musick, Synergy Vocals, The Dunedin Consort, I Fagiolini, Oxford Camerata, Oxford Baroque, Fretwork and Ex Cathedral all under one roof at the same time. Bravo once again BEMP! Bravo indeed.



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THE children are back at school, that summer holiday seems a long time ago and the Christmas preparations are a few months ahead. The question is how to fill that spare time you have, or how to wind down before the next onslaught of life?!

At the Blackdown Healthy Living Centre in Hemyock you will find something for all ages.

Learn to create an inner stillness at our Yoga Classes on Friday mornings with Jan Botsford at 9.30 – 10.30 or Julia Baldock on Monday evenings 18.30 – 20.00. Build fitness, improve posture and balance, aid weight loss, increase flexibility, stamina and confidence.

Bookworms for the under 5's takes place on Thursday afternoons 1.30-3.30. There is no need to commit every week. We work on a drop-in basis and a voluntary contribution of a £1 per family is suggested. This session co-ordinates with the local library van parking outside the Centre at 3.05. We do story telling, singing, crafts and puppets and have a separate baby area. An ideal way to encourage your child to listen, read and play.

The Brightside Club has been set up to help older people feel less isolated and "live life to the full". On Friday 2nd August, our inauguration day, we met up for Coffee and a Bacon Buttie and then went on a Short Mystery Coach Trip.

On the next trip, we had a 40's/50's themed BBQ plus a jive dance demonstration where the brave and energetic joined in.

We had a great Open Day on Friday the 30th. Thank you to all those who came and joined us for a delicious lunch, cooked by Conrad of Fieldings Foods, our resident chef. Our therapists were on hand to give information on their various treatments; acupuncture, osteopathy, reflexology, homeopathy and a beauty therapist to name but a few.

Entertainment was provided by Ron White, a Salsa demonstration by Jo Wilson-Hunt, guitar and harmonica courtesy of Giles and Gabrielle Newman-Turner. We also had a Pilates demonstration by Harriet Tubbs.

The Cameo Club Day Centre for the elderly runs on Mondays and Thursdays 9:00-4:00

We have motivated, caring and trained staff who aim to provide mental, physical and social stimulation in a happy and safe environment. Refreshments are provided throughout the day and a main meal at lunchtimes. This also provide respite for their carers.

We also run a Memory Café for those with memory problems and their partner to attend on a drop-in basis once a month. There is an opportunity to meet the NHS Mental Health team and discuss what other help is available. The next session is Tuesday October 22nd at 10.30-12.30. This is a free service, although donations are welcome. We can provide a lunch if pre-booked on 01823 680687 for which a charge of £5.00 will be needed.

The Phoenix Carers group offers an opportunity for the carers to talk about their concerns, to ask questions and to find out what other services and support may be available to them. Normally, our informal drop-in sessions



Activities at the Cameo Club

run between 10-12 noon on the first Tuesday of every month in the Dining Room of the centre. They are led by Diana Cooper. However, we can talk with you at other times.

Pilates has started for its autumn term on Tuesday 17.45 – 20.00 (two classes). The Pilates method seeks to develop controlled movement from a strong core. Harriet Tubbs is a busy sports injury massage therapist and Pilates instructor who brings many years of experience to her Pilates Class.

Zimba offers a mature workout for the over-50s starting on Monday 16th September going through to Christmas. Keep that body moving and have fun with friends and simply refuse to let age be a barrier.

We now have a café in the centre. This is available during the centre opening times so sit and chat with friends before you return home after your various classes.

Our rooms are available for hire for meetings and parties.

For more details of all these activities, either telephone the centre on 01823 680687 or visit our Facebook page or website on tbhlc.org.uk

Coming shortly are several new activities; circuit training kicks off next month and we are planning cooking for beginners. IT classes, also for beginners are in the pipeline. We are also planning a pamper day when you can talk to the therapists and they can demonstrate their techniques.

BRIGHTSIDE at The Blackdown Healthy Living Centre

The "Brightside" opened its doors for the first time with fifteen members, who all agreed their trip to Bishops Lydeard Water Mill including a scrumptious cream tea, was a huge success. The word is spreading and we now have a friendly group of thirty six who are awakening their "dormant" brightside, making lots of new friends and having fun, with more joining weekly. If you would like to join this intrepid group or find out more about our future activities, ring Janet on 01823 680687.

A small taster of what is planned for October.

Friday 11th October 11:00-3:00

Exercise those lungs with group singing, bring a healthy dish to compete in our baking competition, then all join in a game of inflatable 'pass the pigs'.

Friday 25th October 11:00-3:00

A team 'brightside' version of 'Family Fortunes' followed by fish and chips, cooked to perfection by Dan in his Van. Then its Panto time, with a 10 minute version of "Sleeping Beauty" bound to be mayhem, Anne Davey is taking charge!

Look forward to seeing you there!

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LET



Luppitt

Detached 4 bedroom barn conversion including Annexe. Hallway, utility, cloakroom, kitchen, sitting room, 2 en-suites. Annexe: Open plan kitchen/living room, shower room. Gardens, parking, car port. O.F.C.H. EPC Band C. Web Find: 39525

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LET



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AGREED**



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Guide Price £899,950

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Clayhidon

0.5 Acres

A well appointed four bedroom, three storey farmhouse commanding fine southerly views in grounds of approximately half an acre. 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility & cloakroom, 4 bedrooms (1 en-suite), family bathroom, ample parking, double garage & sun terrace. EPC Band E. Web Find: 45675

Guide Price £525,000

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Combe Raleigh

5.7 Acres

A Grade II Listed 4 bedroom characterful detached barn conversion with attached cottage. Smallholding including gardens, stables and paddock. Charming self contained 2 bedroom holiday cottage with garden and parking, producing an income. Set in an accessible location in the heart of the Blackdown Hills with stunning far reaching views. Web Find: 56977

Guide Price £655,000

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Ashill

1.3 Acres

A four bedroom detached country house with fine views over its attractive garden, paddock and stream, in all approximately 1.3 acres. Lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms (2 en-suite), family bathroom, double garage & workshop. EPC Band F. Web Find: 59052

Guide Price £499,995

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Smallridge

0.5 Acres

A delightful detached edge of village property with gardens and grounds of over half acre. Sitting room, dining room, garden room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath/shower rooms. 2 garages and parking. Private mature gardens. EPC Band D. Web Find: 18454

Guide Price £470,000

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Dalwood

3.6 Acres

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Upottery

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Guide Price £399,000

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